

# ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## REPORT TO AND DECISION OF CABINET ON 17 MAY 2021

**SUBJECT:** Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) Grant

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Carolin Martlew, Financial Services Manager

**DATE:** March 2021

**EXTN:** 37568

**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Corporate Support

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The report provides an update on the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) grant allocations. The grants are ring fenced and must be spent on public health outcomes.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Cabinet is requested to:

1. To note the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) grant allocations.

### **1. BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1. Local Authorities have been, and remain at the forefront of managing COVID-19. The Contain Outbreak Management Fund funding was allocated to County Council's in March 2021. Arun has been allocated £604,961 of funding (based on the relative needs formula) by West Sussex County Council (WSCC).
- 1.2. Additional £214,386.50 COMF funding of was announced on 8 April 2021 by the Department for Health and Social Care, which will be directly allocated to district councils. The release of the grant is dependant on the County Council providing a monitoring return to account for how the COMF allocation for 2020/21 has been used. The two tranches of the grant total £819k.
- 1.3. The County Council allocation could be subject to change due to the earmarking of funding to the County wide Housing Group. Part of this allocation is for a digital financial inclusion assistance tool which is likely to be managed by the individual districts. Members will be updated verbally of any change in the WSCC allocation to Arun.

## 2. PROPOSAL(S):

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members on the projects that will be funded from the grant. The projects to be funded from both tranches of the COMF grant are detailed in appendix 1 and are summarised below:

<b>Arun COMF funded Projects</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Project £'000</b>
Settled Status Support Adviser	10
Arun & Chichester Food Partnership Coordinator	10
Community Transport Initiatives	10
Community Resilience	120
Covid Information Officers	100
Environmental Health Officers (Agency)	225
Licensing Officers	25
Lifeguard Presence	5
Temporary Toilet Provision	28
Public Realm Cleaning Regimes	90
Summer Standby Service	8
External Hand Sanitisers	10
Signage	40
Hard to Reach Groups	51
Young People Activities	20
Pier Road Closure	10
Access to Beaches	8
Temporary outdoor seating	5
Balance to be updated	44
Digital financial inclusion assistance tool (Housing Group)	tbc
<b>Total</b>	<b>819</b>
Funded from:	
WSCC COMF allocation	605
COMF grant DHSC	214
<b>Total</b>	<b>819</b>

2.2 The grant continues to be ring-fenced for public health purposes to tackle Covid-19, “working to break the chain of transmission and to protect the most vulnerable”.

2.3 The expenditure on individual projects, which must comply with the public health grant conditions, will be adjusted to ensure maximum utilisation of the grant available and to remain within the overall funding available.

2.4 In addition to the £605k in Paragraph 2.1 above, approximately £950k of the funding allocated to WSCC has been earmarked for the County wide housing group to fund:

- 6 Money Advice/debt management officers
- 4 Court Desk Service Officers
- 4 Intensive Family Support Officers
- 1 Employment Advisor
- Digital financial inclusion assistance tool 6 licenses

The staff will be employed by WSCC. The decision in relation to the procurement of the digital app is yet to be finalised. TellJo is a screening tool which is used to identify and engage with people who may be vulnerable. The app identifies safeguarding, financial health, health and wellbeing issues which may mean someone needs additional support. The app has previously been used by social housing providers to engage their residents with tenancy sustainment support.

**3. OPTIONS:**  
None - the grant must be spent on the activities listed in the grant conditions .

**4. CONSULTATION:**

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader of the Council</li> <li>• Group Leaders</li> </ul>		✓
<b>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Financial	✓	
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability	✓	
Asset Management/Property/Land	✓	
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

**6. IMPLICATIONS:**

The COMF funding allows a significant number of vital projects to be carried out across the District which will require Council resources (mainly officer time) to be delivered.

**7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

To ensure that Members are fully informed about the COMF grant allocations and proposed expenditure funded from the grant.

**8. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE DECISION: 17 May 2021 – as this is a noting report**

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Correspondence from the Department of Health and Social Care